

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAO PA 01355 261945Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W
-----270914Z 061845 /12

R 261830Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7747
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L S A O P A U L O 1355

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, BR
SUBJ: FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE SEVERO GOMES
WORKING TO REPLACE GEISEL WITH A CIVILIAN

1. SEVERO GOMES, EX-MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE OUTSTED LAST FEBRUARY (SAO PAULO 0310) TOLD CONGEN OFF MAY 25 THAT HE BELIEVES THAT ARMY MINISTER FROTA WILL NOMINATE A CIVILIAN TO REPLACE PRESIDENT GEISEL. GOMES STATED THAT HE THOUGHT THE CIVILIAN CANDIDACY WOULD BE VICTORIOUS. GOMES' PERSONAL CANDIDATE WAS HEALTH MINISTER NASCIMENTO E SILVA, SINCE HE HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MILITARY, WOULD PROTECT THEM FROM POPULAR RESTITUTION FOR THE REVOLUTION'S PAST ACTS AND HAS A GOOD RECORD IN A POPULAR AREA OF THE GOVERNMENT. GOMES IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE EFFORT TO ELECT A CIVILIAN SUCCESSOR TO GEISEL BY PUBLISHING A BOOK CALLED "TIME FOR CHANGE" AIMED AT CONVINCING MILITARY THAT THE TIME TO RETURN GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIANS HAS ARRIVED. GOMES THOUGHT THAT THIS IDEA WOULD BECOME AN OPEN AND IMPORTANT CURRENT OF THOUGHT IN THE MILITARY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. GOMES EXPLAINED THAT SNI CHEIF GEN. JOAO BAPTISTA FIGUEIREDO IS THE STRONGEST CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED PRESIDENT GEISEL AT THE PRESENT TIME. FIGUEIREDO SYMBOLIZES CONTINUITY OF MILITARY RULE. FROTA, AS ARMY MINISTER, REPRESENTS A MILITARY LEADER OFFICERS

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CAN SUPPORT WITHOUT BREAKING HIERARCHY. AND FROTA, ASSERTED GOMES, HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE WILL NOMINATE A CIVILIAN AS GEISEL'S SUCCESSOR.

4. COMMENT: THE POSSIBILITY OF A CIVILIAN SUCCESSOR TO GEISEL HAS BEEN BRUITED ABOUT BY POLITICIANS FOR SOME TIME, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT WE HAVE HEARD OF THIS EFFORT FROM SUCH A WELL

PLACED SOURCE. THIS IS ALSO THE FIRST TIME THAT ARMY MINISTER FROTA, ONE OF THE TWO STRONGEST CANDIDATES IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION HAS BEEN REPORTED TO BE INTERESTED IN NOMINATING A CIVILIAN. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.

CHAPIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, GOVERNMENT REFORM, MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: SAO PAULO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770514/aaaaalry.tel
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Litigation History:
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Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MILI, BR, (GOMES, SEVERO)
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